SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

6th Year – October 23, 1972

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Address: HT 1217 B-SVN
c/o DAZIMINA HANOI
19, Hai Ba Trung, Hanoi, DRVN
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CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

FIERCE BATTLES AND BRILLIANT VICTORIES

▦ 325,000 enemy eliminated or captured ▦ 8 divisions, 33 brigades, regiments and multi-battalion units, 225 infantry battalions, 11 armor regiments and 25 artillery battalions wiped out or heavily decimated; 80 battalions and multi-company units, 500 companies and 1,700 "civil guard" and "popular defence" platoons put out of action, mauled or disbanded ▦ 6,300 military vehicles (including over 2,000 tanks and armored cars), 1,500 artillery pieces and mortars, 45,000 guns of various calibres and hundreds of thousands of tons of bombs and shells seized or destroyed; 2,050 aircraft shot down or destroyed on the ground; 400 war vessels and gun boats sank or set aflame; more than 600 depots exploded ▦ 80 battalion or divisional bases and 13 airfields destroyed, one port overrun ▦ 30 military sectors, sub-sectors and district towns razed to the ground, 2,000 army posts and garrisons levelled or forced to abandon ▦ Nearly two and half a million people seized control of vast areas.

DURING six months of simultaneous offensives and concerted uprisings beginning on March 30, the Liberation Armed Forces and people across South Viet Nam recorded resounding victories on all the battlefields.

According to incomplete statistics, the liberation forces killed, wounded or captured 325,000 enemy; wiped out or heavily decimated 8 divisions, 33 brigades, regiments and multi-battalion units, 225 infantry battalions, 11 armor regiments and 25 artillery battalions; put out of action, mauled or disbanded 80 battalions and multi-company units, 500 companies and 1,700 "civil guard" and "popular defence" platoons, seized or destroyed 6,300 military vehicles including over 2,000 tanks and armored cars, 1,500 artillery pieces and mortars, 45,000 guns of various calibres and hundreds of thousands of tons of bombs and shells; shot down or destroyed on the ground 2,050 aircraft and sank or set aflame 400 war vessels and gun boats; exploded more than 600 depots of bombs, shells, gasoline and war materials; destroyed 80 battalion or divisional bases and 13 airfields and overran one port; razed to the ground 30 military sectors, sub-sectors and district towns; and levelled or forced to abandon 2,000 army posts and other military positions.

In the same period, nearly two and half a million people seized control of vast areas.

(Continued on page 4)

PLAF assault on Hiep Duc military sub-sector, Quang Nam province

in the shadow of the american embassy in Saigon

(Continued)

11. — The four pillars of the corrupt regime

THE four pillars of the corrupt regime in Saigon stood in this order: Do Cao Tri, Dang Van Quang, Lu Lan and Dam Van Quang. All four were major-generals (Tri was posthumously promoted to be a four-star full general).

The higher your rank, and the bigger your power, the more mercilessly you rob the people—such is the law governing the Saigon administration and army. Let us take a quick look at the careers of "President" Thieu's four cronies.

Dang Van Quang used to be the commander of the Fourth Corps Area (the Mekong Delta) where he had had plenty of opportunity to plunder its rice. Lu Lan, formerly head of Quang Ngai province then commander of the Second Corps Area, was also notorious for his venality and especially for his looting of relief rice for flood victims. He is now inspector general at the Ministry of Defence. Dam Van Quang, formerly a staff sergeant in the French colonial army, was later promoted to be "Emperor" Bao Dai's aide-de-camp, then commander of his personal guard. In the American-financed regime in Saigon, he was put in command of the Special Forces and earned a solid reputation as a dollar trafficker, American aid embezzler, and inveterate gambler. He is now Lu Lan's deputy.

In the Saigon regime, where "corruption is the prime mover, fuel and lubricant of the State machinery," as admitted by one of its stalwarts, the four major-generals play indeed a major role. They maintain close and effective liaison between the satraps in the four Corps Areas, the Presidency and the General Staff. Having themselves worked in the various Corps Areas, they are quite conversant with all available opportunities for profitable businesses there.

How rich are they? It's difficult to say. An indicator is Dang Van Quang's boast in the course of a drinking bout that his own fortune had grown even larger than that of Nguyen Huu Co, the former Defence Minister and now a big bank owner, whose known wealth is believed to have passed the 6 million US dollars' mark. Each month Co and his wife draw two million Saigon piastres' rent from their real estate alone: a three-storeyed apartment house in Da Lat, 60 bungalows rented to Americans at the Nha Trang seaside resort, a luxurious villa in Vung Tau, two modern hotels in Saigon, etc. The real estate, according to the estimate of experienced building contractors, is worth billions of piastres. But the cash and bank accounts remain a well-guarded mystery. There are only a few eloquent pointers. For instance this story about Mrs Co, whose great passion is gambling. Once, having struck a bad streak, she lost 300,000 piastres in one single evening. Lighting a cigarette, she said casually, with a shrug of the shoulders: "It's nothing, nothing at all. The price of three soldiers."

What is certain is that the fortunes of the Saigon generals far surpass that of the Ngo Dinh Diem family, which in fact had been incorporated into theirs after Diem's fall in 1963. The so-called "confiscation of the Ngo clan's property for the benefit of the State" was just eyewash—the throwing away of a sprat to catch a whale.

Some of the staff of the Saigon Supreme Court know every nook and cranny of the affair, the files of which lie in their safes, but they prudently keep their mouths shut. They rarely talk about this ticklish subject, only in private conversations with trusted friends.

During their time in power, Diem, his brother Nhu, and Nhu's wife, Le Xuan, had their hand in just every profitable business in the land. They held the monopoly of the rice trade in Trung Bo and the export of such products as cinnamon bark, white sand (for glass making), scrap iron, rubber, frozen shrimp, duck feathers, etc. to Japan, Singapore, Hongkong, France, the USA, West Germany... which brought them several billion piastres each year in profit. The general manager was Diem's elder sister, Ca Le. At present this Pactolus flows into the pockets of Ngo Dzu, Hoang Xuan Lam, Dang Van Quang, and company.

One of Diem's achievements in "industrial development" was the setting up of the Tan Mai firm in Bien Hoa, which held the monopoly of timber exploitation and wood processing. A government decree forbade all trade in wood in order to "protect national wealth", i.e. this monopoly. Now the Tan Mai undertaking has been entrusted to a retired general, one of Dang Van Quang's cronies.

Diem possessed great interests in the textile industry. He held large shares in such undertakings as Intertexco, Dofitex, Vinatexco, and Vimitex. His brother, Bishop Ngo Dinh Thuc, owned the Cogido paper-mill in Bien Hoa, where he gave his blessings to 300 workers to compensate them for their starvation wages, the lowest in the trade. The mill has been developed into a large plant entrusted with "supplying paper for national defence" and is now firmly controlled by Generals Cao Van Vien and Lu Lan.

In the food industry, Madame Nhu in her time had set up the Intraco Company, which owned a meat-packing factory in Gia Dinh, a fish-canning one in Phan Thiet, a 200-hectare breeding area for lobsters in Vung Tau, a freezing plant for shrimps in Van Don (Saigon). The major shareholders in these undertakings are now senior officers in the Saigon General Staff.

Diem in his time was surrounded by such faithful servant-managers as Nguyen Van Buu, his own nephew, who ran the cinnamon and shrimp businesses in Trung Bo, or Nguyen Huu Khai, who supervised the vegetable-growing "cooperatives" in Lam Dong and the marketing of their products in Saigon or even as far as Singapore. The Saigon generals' retinue is much more numerous. It is made up of their brothers, nephews, cousins and of course their parents and wives. Not to mention their subordinates — staff officers and commissaries — who will do their utmost to please their bosses and get promoted to higher ranks.

The official title of Dang Van Quang: security adviser to the President, should not be taken too seriously. His job is rather to look after the security of the President's... purse, and to ensure a steady flow of income from his opium and political traffic. He works most of the time with Thieu's wife and manages the Thieu family's bank accounts in Rome and Berne. "A real Kissinger," quipped a journalist to a parliamentarian, who quickly replied: "Kissinger can't hold a candle to Quang as far as financial management for the boss is concerned."

The generals' spouses are at least as notorious as their husbands. The press often carries reports about visits paid by the First Lady of the Second Republic of Saigon (Thieu's wife), accompanied by such social luminaries as the wives of Generals Dang Van Quang and Lu Lan, to wounded soldiers at the Republican Hospital. "Charity" activities are a convenient screen for less innocent undertakings. Thus Mrs Thieu is president of the Women Serve Society association, while Mesdames Quang, Lan and Quang are members of its central committee. The Saigonese are quick to point out that in fact they only serve their own private coffers by corrupting society. For their numerous financial deals they have an army of efficient aides and can devote most of their time to American-style orgies.

They are numerous enough to form a special privileged stratum. For although there are only 137 generals (from brigadier up) the number of their consorts is much larger, perhaps a thousand or so. Once a brigadier-general was killed in battle. No less than eight widows came to his funeral (it was the first time they ever met), from places as distant as Da Nang, Hue, Da Lat, Can Tho and one from each of three Saigon districts. Each tried to express her grief louder than the others, hoping thereby to justify claim to a larger share of the 600-million-piastre heritage.

As said about, "charity" is the favourite occupation of the generals' wives. Victims of natural calamities, war refugees, widows and orphans are the object of their watchful solicitude. Indeed they are watching for the least typhoon that may swoop down on their unfortunate compatriots. Not that they are much concerned about their fate. But they are terribly interested in the share that they never fail to get from the relief funds collected: usually no less than 60 per cent.

These last few years, Dam Van Quang has been entrusted by Thieu with the problem of the oilfields. With a bulging brown leather briefcase under his arm, Quang often comes to meet the American oil experts at USAID headquarters. Indeed he is the liaison man between Thieu and the big American oil companies. Together with Thieu and some of the Saigon top brass, he dreams of becoming an oil magnate in Southeast Asia. Oilmen come to Saigon from all corners of the world. From the Boeing 717s which land at Tan Son Nhut airport there alight prosperous-looking businessmen from the USA, France, West Germany, the Netherlands, Japan, Australia and even Indonesia. This has become a veritable rush, in contrast to the relative discretion of a few years ago, when American oil executives passed themselves off as mere tourists and went home after a period of three to six months. During their stay, they lived in hotels, in rented villas, or at the headquarters of Shell, Caltex or Standard Oil Saigon branches.

A special department at USAID studies the natural wealth of South Viet Nam, oil in particular. In early 1971, sensational news was unofficially "leaked," from that department: South Viet Nam was literally floating on an ocean of oil. Wherever you drill, so it was rumoured, in the Central Highlands, in Trung Bo, in the Mekong Delta, oil gas would gush forth. What is more, the oil was said to be of the low-sulphure kind, highly valued in the industrially developed countries, which are particularly sensitive to the menace of pollution. In the posh restaurants and cabarets, American, Dutch and Japanese politicians and businessmen whispered into each other's ears thrilling hints of the fabulous importance of the prospective oilfields: the reserves were estimated to be a hundred, nay, a thousand times bigger than those of the Middle East. A striking simile was circulated: the Middle East oil deposits when compared with the South Vietnamese ones would look like a stamp stuck on the rump of an elephant. These rumours were in fact discreet calls by Bunker and Thieu addressed to American business circles, who were urged to invest in a field where nothing concrete had really been found.

In the latter part of 1971, more "men of good will" came by the hundred, people ready to "help" the country move away from its economic backwardness. Their briefcases were stuffed with maps and blueprints about the sites of future wells, pipe-lines, storage tanks, refineries and plants producing all kinds of goods from oil. For these men the hundreds of thousands of GIs who had laid down their lives would not have died in vain. A luxurious Esso headquarters rose on Thong Nhat boulevard opposite the "Independence Palace". In late 1970, Thieu had promulgated Decree 11-70 which laid down rules and conditions, very liberal ones indeed, for foreign companies to conduct surveys and open up oil wells on an area totalling 400,000 square kilometres. "An outright gift to foreign investors," estimated a Lybian oil expert. The Saigon press quickly pointed out: "President Thieu is ready to sell out the whole of the country's wealth for just a few score million dollars in anticipation of the day when he will leave the country for a comfortable exile in Switzerland."

However, in spite of all efforts by Thieu to cajole and entice foreign investors, USAID and the Saigon Economics Ministry were unanimous in recognizing that the undertaking, far from progressing at a "cosmic" speed, was proceeding at a snail's pace.

In the early part of 1972, an elderly American wearing gold-rimmed spectacles could be seen taking a walk every afternoon along the tree-lined Thong Nhat boulevard. He looked tired and worried. He was a top-ranking expert of the American Bristol oil company, who had been in Saigon for several years and had kept in close touch with Thieu and Quang. Once he confided to a Vietnamese friend in the Saigon Economics Ministry:

"Safety, absolute safety, that's what we need. You know what has been happening in the Middle and Near East. Let trouble erupt and the oil wells will go up in flames. Oil and bombs should be widely separated. Both are inflammable!" He added with a wry smile: "There may be an oil war, but in actual life oil shouldn't be too close to war!" A pause, then he continued: "Absolute political stability, that's the second thing we need. The nationalisations effected by those new governments in South America have been hard blows to us. Unfortunately both the things we require, safety and stability, can't be found here." He looked at his friend who seemed lost in thought, and explained: "Trading in oil is not like trading in heroin. We have to build big storage tanks and long pipelines. No amount of armed guards could ensure their absolute safety. A two-pound explosive charge could cause billions of dollars' worth of oil to go up in smoke. Mr Bunker's bunker itself has been proved not to be immune from attack. What about oil tanks? How could we think of setting up business here?" He looked discouragingly to the north, where according to a recent MACV communiqué the fuel and ammunition depots at Cam Ranh had been burning for several days, then to the west, where several million litres of gasoline at an Esso storage depot near Phnom Penh had vanished into thick black smoke.

The dream harboured by Thieu and his cronies to become oil magnates has also vanished. Perhaps this is the reason why they are more than ever persuaded that the most fruitful trade they could engage in remains the banter of the cannonfodder constituted by their soldiers against American greenbacks. With "Vietnamization" being pursued by the Americans, the Saigon soldiers' dead bodies remain the principal source of dollar dividends for the leaders of the *Khaki Party*.

(To be continued)

THANH NAM

Revolutionary power's 10-point policy vis-à-vis newly liberated areas

Genuine equality and national unity

THE US-Thieu reactionary policy towards nationalities springs from their selfishness as majorities oppressing and slighting minorities. Racial discrimination—this cancer of the US capitalist society—has been imported by the US aggressors and inflicted upon various nationalities in South Viet Nam. All means, either insidious or blatantly devisive, have been used to play off the delta people against the Highlanders, split the majority people and the ethnic minorities and undermine unity within the latter themselves. The enemy tries to revive old racial feuds, and to create new ones. Administrators belonging to one nationality are imposed upon others. Discriminating treatment is extensive. Some nationalities are lured into bullying and killing others and, as a result, suspicion and enmity ensue. Troops are levied from among one nationality to form "ranger" squads hurled against others.

US-Saigon oppression and exploitation of various nationalities has reached a climax. For nearly two decades—from Ngo Dinh Diem to Nguyen Van Thieu—members of freedom-loving nationalities have been penned up in concentration camps and strategic hamlets, while their native lands have been subjected to countless bombings and poundings that have altered even the configuration of terrain. Whole series of bloody murders were committed at Huong Dien, Da Ban, Ban Du, Bac Ngo, Kong Hring, Buon Ur, Buon Kram, Buon Vinh, Suoi Cheu, etc. Minority people are forced at gun point to work without pay at "resettlement centres." Sale and purchase of salt and forest products become a Saigon monopoly, and private individuals are forbidden to transport salt and rice to the highlands. Human dignity is made little of. Hence an implacable hatred of the various nationalities in South Viet Nam for the US and Nguyen Van Thieu.

The Political Program of the National Front for Liberation and the Program of Action of the Provisional Revolutionary Government attach great importance to the policy of national unity and equality among nationalities which originates from profound humanism, a sense of equality for all men and respect for their right to live and to progress in friendliness. Ethnic minorities have the right to use their own language and script to preserve and develop their own arts and culture and to maintain or change their own customs and habits. Full application of the principle of equality among nationalities in newly-liberated areas has given a push to the growth of the highlanders, both economically and culturally, which results in an improvement of their material and moral well-being. Majority and minority groups enjoy genuine equality both of rights and obligations. Unity and mutual help among brotherly nationalities of the great Viet Nam family is instrumental in the shaping of efficient defence and a strong and prosperous Viet Nam.

Through decades ethnic minorities living in the Central Highlands, the western parts of Quang Tri, Thua Thien, Zone 5, the southernmost provinces of Trung Bo, Nam Bo, have shown boundless devotion to the Revolution and the Fatherland, and made substantial contributions to the revolutionary and national cause. In the darkest years of the revolution, the hills and forests of South Viet Nam sheltered revolutionaries and patriots and the people there flinched from no sacrifice to help them.

At present, the immense forests and sky-high mountains of South Viet Nam again become a firm base from where powerful waves of offensives and uprisings have been mounted from the nine-year anti-French resistance to the present fight against US aggression, many heroes have emerged from the South Viet Nam ethnic minorities: Nup, Vai, Bi Nang Tac, Pui Tho, Kpa Co Long, etc. Under the glorious banner of the revolution, our fellow-countrymen of the highlands hold high their heads in the confrontation with the enemy: many nationalities have developed their languages and invented their own scripts and raised their artistic and cultural standard. A great number of minority cadres and militants have been trained. The way of living in many places has undergone great changes. High-level agricultural cooperatives have been formed in many localities in western Quang Tri, Thua Thien, the Central Highlands and Interzone 5 inhabited by ethnic minorities. Old grudges and dissensions sown by the enemy have disappeared. Highlanders are now regularly supplied with salt. Unity among nationalities has grown stronger, mutual assistance and coordinated action has become a common practice in the fight against the enemy.

The enlargement of the liberated areas has put South Viet Nam's various nationalities on their mettle and created for them new, favourable conditions to march forward and build a steady rear base for the revolution and contribute to the liberation of South Viet Vam and reunification of the country.

TAM DUONG

Second all-South Viet Nam economic and financial conference

RECENTLY convened by the Ministry of Economy and Finance, the 2nd All-South Viet Nam Economic and Financial Conference reviewed the progress of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people on the economic-financial front in the past year since the first Conference, especially in the last few months since the eruption of the current wave of the offensives and uprisings, summed up experience, made an indepth analysis of the US-Saigon basic schemes in economy and finance, and decided on the economic and financial tasks for the coming period, to give a push to the national resistance effort.

The delegates, numbering over 100, came from the Mekong Delta, a number of important provinces and cities, various departments under the PRG Council and NFL affiliated organizations, and included economic and financial experts of the Ministry of Economy and Finance.

In his report, Vice-Minister of Economy and Finance Nguyen Van Trieu said the people had been waging a multiform struggle against the enemy to defend their land gains, preserve the economic potential of the Resistance, and oppose enemy predatory measures coupled with economic bait. The farmers have courageously held their ground to increase production on the spot and gradually pressed for their return to their native villages and hamlets. Particularly since early April, along with the military drive, an important part of the population in most South Viet Nam provinces has risen up to seize power, return to home villages, build fighting villages, and contribute manpower and material resources to the Revolution.

This turn of events has given a strong stimulus to the people living in areas still under enemy control in their action on the production front which has a profound economic, military and political meaning.

The exertions made by the people in supply and circulation of goods are further evidence of their sense of patriotism. Thanks to them, the needs of the fighting, work, production and everyday life in the resistance bases and liberated areas have been met.

People in both the liberated zone and the areas under enemy control have readily made contributions to the resistance in cash and in kind; they give medical aid, feed war wounded and cadres, or do combat support jobs.

These activities have a great economic and political purport. They not only help in keeping stable the people's life and preserving the potentials of a war economy, but also hit hard at the enemy's pacification program, and provide armymen and cadres with a direct, solid rear base, for them to cling to their positions, expand the revolutionary capability and gain greater achievements.

Dealing with the general directives for economic and financial work and concrete tasks for specific areas, the report laid emphasis on production efforts, the concern for the people's welfare, the close combination of production, fighting and combat preparedness, better circulation of goods, and greater revenues under the present taxation. It stressed the thorough grasping of the spirit of revolutionary offensive, self-reliance on the economic-financial front.

With regard to the position of economy and finance, the report said, "Military, political and economic activity is inseparable. Good economic and financial work will create the material foundations for the military drive, boost counter-pacification efforts to win over the people, and impel political action, in urban centres. Armed and political confrontation must also bear an economic-financial content. Military actions are mounted to liberate territory and population, and protect the people's lives and property. By contributing manpower and material resources to the revolution, the people safeguard their own short-range and long-range interests.

Building fortifications and trenches with guerilla assistance to carry on the fight and production

FIERCE BATTLES AND BRILLIANT VICTORIES

(Continued from page 1)

The large-scale offensive and uprising of the entire heroic South Vietnamese people and liberation armed forces has entered its seventh month. After 180 days of extremely valiant fighting, they have won splendid victories.

Right in the first month of the strategic offensive, the South Viet Nam PLAF and people smashed many of the enemy ,strongest defence lines and complexes in the plains and mountain areas, dealing staggering blows at the Saigon army. Particularly, the outer defence lines of the enemy on Highway 9 (in Quang Tri province), west of the Paco river (in the High Plateaux), on Highways 22 and 13 (in Tay Ninh — Binh Long area) were smashed; the enemy defence complexes, defence key sectors and complexes of strongholds in Dong Ha — Quang Tri, Dakto — Tan Canh and Loc Ninh areas were completely wiped out. Within the first month of offensive and uprising, the people and PLAF upset the enemy defensive position and smashed or breached enemy defence lines in many strategic areas. They dealt staggering blows at the Saigon main forces. Nearly 100,000 enemy were put out of combat, including many units sizing from regiment to division and technical service units wiped out or heavily trounced. The Saigon mobile strategic reserve forces were dispatched to different places and sustained heavy losses.

Taking advantage of the enemy's disarray, the PLAF and people in the plains of Central Trung Bo and in Nam Bo simultaneously rose up and assaulted hundreds of enemy military bases, positions, airfields, ports and warehouses, and smashed an important portion of the enemy coercive machine and paramilitary force, and liberated many areas. The puppet troops were driven into a position of passivity on all the battlefields and at the rear. The strategic mettle of the revolutionary war has strongly developed, the strategic scope has enlarged, thus deeply changing the whole war situation.

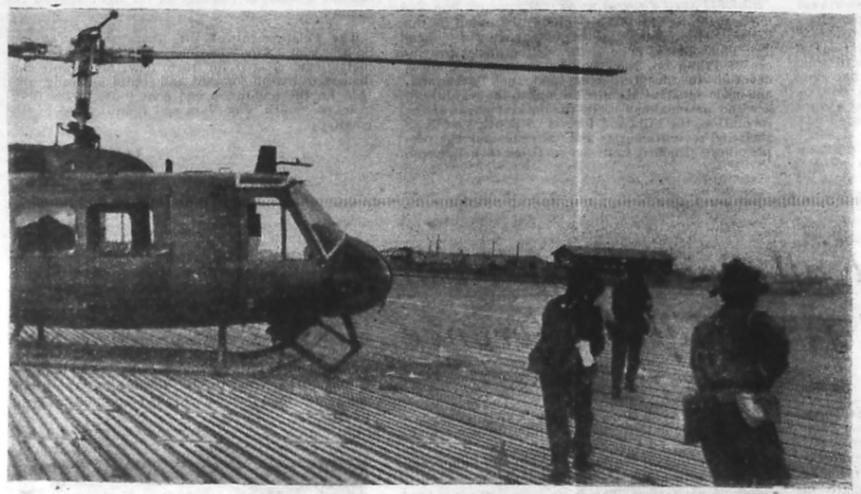
To save the "Vietnamization of the war" strategy from total collapse, the Nixon administration hurriedly sent a big US air and naval force to massively participate in the war in a bid to rescue the Saigon puppet army and check the offensive and uprising of the South Viet Nam people. The US recklessly resumed its war of destruction against North Viet Nam and blockaded its ports in an attempt to break the fighting will of our people and prevent the assistance of the great rear to the great front and isolate the revolutionary war of our people.

However, realities on the battlefields have proven that though the US imperialists have "re-Americanized" the war to a high level with their air and naval forces, they have failed to reverse the situation or stamp out the people's revolutionary war; on the contrary they have been driven ever more deeply into a passive and defensive position. The puppet regular troops as well as paramilitary forces have sustained ever heavier losses; the "pacification" program has been smashed by big chunks in many important areas.

In May and June 1972, the three kinds of armed forces launched repeated attacks on the enemy, breaching large sections of outer defence lines. They continued wiping out large portions of the enemy forces on the battlefields in Tri Thien, Kontum, and Binh Long, creating favorable conditions for the PLAF to carry out deep-thrust attacks on the enemy right to the most vital areas in the plains of Central Trung Bo and in the Mekong river delta. The PLAF and people have closely co-ordinated offensives and uprisings, concentrated assaults and guerilla activities, fighting and agitation propaganda. They wiped out or captured over 100,000 enemy. Especially, the US-puppet "pacification" program has been shattered in many places; the enemy's coercive machine has been decimated or disrupted in many important areas, even in areas described by the US-puppet clique as "100" per cent "pacified." Dozens of military subsectors with hundreds of posts and pill boxes of the system of coercion in rural areas and the plains in the provinces of Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, Binh Dinh, Kien Phong, Kien Tuong, My Tho, Ben Tre, etc., and on Highway 4 were overran.

Millions of people rose up, killed cruel agents, destroyed the enemy's coercive machine, and seized control of many vast areas in both the plains and the mountain regions. Together with guerillas, the local people encircled and assaulted the enemy, destroyed bridges, cut off many important roads and harassed enemy posts and pill boxes. Hundreds of thousands of people penned up in "strategic hamlets" and other concentration camps broke the enemy's grip, returned to their native places to resume production or take part in the anti-US resistance. The liberated areas have been ceaselessly expanded, linking one province to another, village to village, and district to district; many areas of strategic importance were liberated, thus placing the enemy in big cities, including Saigon and Da Nang, under direct threat.

Parallel with the military and political offensive, the South Viet Nam people and armed forces have stepped up their agitation work thus disintegrating the puppets' ranks. Mutinies, anti-war actions, refusals of combat order and desertions have more and more taken place in the puppet main forces as well as paramilitary forces. On all the battlefields, from Tri Thien area to Ca Mau province many puppet regiments, tactical groups or battalions rallied to the PLAF and people; many Saigon units turned their fire on their cruel commanders or refused to move to the front. Masses of nationalist-minded soldiers stationed in many posts in the plains of Central Trung Bo and in Nam Bo crossed over to the people, bringing along their weapons. The "popular defence" organization has disintegrated by big segments. The people together with Saigon soldiers' families in all places have resolutely struggled against the puppet authorities for the return of their sons, brothers and husbands, against forcible conscription and the transfer of paramilitary forces into main forces. This struggle movement is strongly rising.



Ai Tu airfield overrun by PLAF

THE resounding victories recorded by the PLAF and people on all the battlefields in South Viet Nam have stimulated the seething struggle of the people in urban centres against Nguyen Van Thieu's forcible conscription and fascist measures.

The Nixon administration and its stooges are facing a critical situation, but remain stubborn, pinning great hope in their trump-card — US air force and navy. The US sent puppet troops on clearing operations in newly liberated areas, thus driving the puppet army into a greater predicament.

Since late June, the enemy have mustered all their strategic mobile forces and mobilized to a high level US aircraft, warships and artillery to fan out south of Quang Tri, the surrounding areas of Kontum and An Loc provincial capitals. They showered bombs and shells on every small area to clear the way for the puppet troops to advance step by step. And once again on these fronts, the US-puppets sustained heavy setbacks, a big portion of the enemy forces was knocked out, and the puppet mobile main force is bogged down more deeply, while on other fronts it has exposed its new weakness.

On the Quang Tri front though the puppet paratrooper and marine divisions, ranger units are strongly covered by artillery and armored cars with the participation of the US air force and navy in the war at a level unknown before in the history of war, they have been intercepted in 82 straight days and sustained some 26,000 casualties.

In Kontum province, the enemy fanned out some kilometres north of the provincial capital, but they were intercepted by the PLAF and had to pull back with heavy losses of several battalions.

Nearly ten infantry and armor regiments of the puppet army dispatched to north of Binh Dinh province were pinned down along Highway 1, and sustained thousands of casualties.

The PLAF in Binh Long province repeatedly attacked almost all the regular troops of the puppet 3rd and 4th army corps sent to the rescue of An Loc. With 100 days the PLAF wiped out or captured over 20,000 enemy along Highway 13.

While puppet troops engaged in counter-offensives on various battlefields on the outer defence lines were sustaining heavy losses, the PLAF and people stepped up their offensive and uprising behind enemy lines.

In the Mekong river delta, the people and liberation armed forces on Highway 4 and in My Tho, Ben Tre, Go Cong, An Giang and Rach Gia provinces put out of action or disbanded tens of thousands of enemy, and wiped out or heavily decimated dozens of battalions of the puppet 9th and 21st divisions, and of the "border ranger" force.

In the plains of Central Trung Bo, telling blows were repeatedly dealt at important defence complexes of the enemy in Cam Doi, Que Son, Tien Phuoc, Tay Thanh Binh (southwest of Da Nang) and Ba To, Mo Duc and Duc Pho (Quang Ngai province).

Enemy key positions and bases from Highway 19 (west of Pleiku), Highways 1, 15, 13 and 4 to Saigon were assaulted and isolated. The defence line on the fringe of Saigon is in serious jeopardy. Base camps, storage areas and strategic airfields including Bien Hoa, Long Binh, Cam Ranh, Pleiku, Da Nang, Phu Bai, Dong Lam and Mang Ca (Hue) were repeatedly taken under fire. Hundreds of aircraft were wrecked and hundreds of thousands of tons of bombs, shells and gasoline destroyed.

Women gunners in the Mekong delta

THE victories recorded by the South Viet Nam people and liberation armed forces in the past six months have an important strategic significance. They were telling blows dealt at the US "Vietnamization of the war" strategy which is driven to its complete failure. Though the US imperialists have "re-Americanized" the war of aggression by using their two strongest arms — US airforce and navy — to participate in the war, they are unable to retrieve themselves from ever heavier setbacks. The South Viet Nam people's and PLAF's victories of strategic significance have rapidly changed the situation of the war, created a new, strong and steady position and ever bigger military and political strength for the people and liberation forces on all the battlefields after six months of offensive and uprising in South Viet Nam.

In the impetus of the victories, the South Viet Nam liberation forces and people in the common steady position of the fight of the Indochinese peoples, are pushing ahead their offensives and uprisings to win ever greater victories and to advance to defeat completely the US imperialists' strategy of "Vietnamization of the war."

4,000th US PLANE SHOT DOWN IN NORTH VIET NAM

The 4,000th US aircraft shot down over North Viet Nam - an F.111-was blasted to pieces at 0.05 hr on October 17, 1972 over Vinh Phu province, northwest of Hanoi.

The two US pilots — Captain Hockridge James Alan and Captain Graham Allen Upton — died in the crash.

The 3,999th — an A7 — was brought down on the previous day over Thanh Hoa province.

Also on Oct. 17, 1972, the people's armed forces in Vinh Phu and Yen Bai provinces shot down two more planes, bringing the total of US aircraft downed so far in North Viet Nam to 4,002.

A SUCCESSFUL COMBAT

IT was past noon and the sun was bearing down hard. Two enemy columns had ventured into an ambush site laid by our troops right in the centre of Cam Son plain.

An order was given, and our machine-guns opened up in concert with other rifles of all calibers. Dozens of Saigon soldiers fell in the water-logged paddies, while those marching behind dispersed in the village outskirts in an attempt to resist. Our third unit quickly split into small groups and went after the fleeing enemy.

Tho, leading his own group brandished his glittering bayonet, and shouted: "Hang on to them, fight hand to hand with them, let no one escape!"

Within ten minutes, the first Saigon company, moving in front, was neatly wiped out. The other units tried to dodge our encirclement by rushing west. Commander Vien discreetly instructed his men not to hinder their flight. Trampling upon the paddies, the Saigon soldiers ran as quickly as their legs could carry them; but when they reached a neck-deep waterway a thunderous detonation was heard and twelve of them collapsed like felled banana trees. The survivors put up a last-ditch fight, with a machine-gun hidden behind an earth bank spitting fire without let-up. Losing no time, Khai crawled along the canal dyke and, with his B.40, reduced the enemy gun to silence. The opportunity was immediately seized by Phuong who jumped to his feet and fired two M-19 shells and cut down all of the thirteen Saigon soldiers who had huddled there.

Our groups swept forward. Nga, while commanding his men, did away with those enemy troops fleeing west. A Saigon company commander rid himself of all his personal belongings for a faster race to safety, but he suddenly shrieked and bumped into the waterway: his corpse was shrouded in a mounting column of smoke.

Enemy artillery from the Cai Lay military subsector slammed bullets on the terrain in a rescue strike. OV-10 recon planes circled just above treetops to spot targets for a swarm of jets to rain bombs at random. All this could not stop our fighters' pursuit, and Cam Son villagers coming out and helping them collect enemy weapons and war prisoners. Guerillas had already crossed the river to join forces with the regulars. Calls to surrender resounded from all corners: One after another Saigon troops emerged from their hide-outs with both hands up. One of them had on his mud-stained shirt an insignia showing two golden plum flowers. "That's the major commanding the battalion, sir!" said a POW who had just handed over his gun.

With bowed heads, the captives moved on on the injunction of their guards.

Cam Son, where the 2nd battalion of Regiment 15, Saigon Division 9 had been knocked out, today witnessed another feat of arms: in close coordination with the local people and guerillas, our liberation fighters once again heavily battered the same battalion brought back to strength, neatly writing off two companies, killing and wounding over 160 men, taking 33 prisoners, capturing 5 radio sets, 30 guns and a large quantity of war materials.

Saigonese troops flee from Cai Lay (My Tho) military subsector

Vietnamese Women and Children denounce US crimes

Let us respond to their appeal!

RECENTLY, faced with imminent complete failure of "Vietnamization," the warlike Nixon clique has undertaken new escalation moves of extreme gravity against the people of both South and North Viet Nam, conducted an extraordinarily atrocious air and naval war of destruction against the DRVN, piling up innumerable savage crimes against the Vietnamese people, especially mothers, women and children.

According to the documents of the Viet Nam Commission for the Protection of Mothers and Children, in the past 6 months, Nixon ordered 40,580 sorties of tactical aircraft to conduct 10,428 raids, dropping 131,804 demolition and blast bombs, over 5,440 containers of antipersonnel fragmentation bombs and thousands of B.52 sorties to rain tens of thousands of tons of explosive in saturation bombings on 27 heavily populated cities and provinces, killing thousands of women, mothers and children.

US aircraft heavily attacked all the 6 large cities of the DRVN, some with extermination character such as Haiphong, Vinh, Nam Dinh..., 22 of the 24 provinces, many of them repeatedly; all the 6 districts of Quang Binh were devastated.

The real following facts lay clear the Nixon's barbarous crimes of the genocidal war:

From April 16 to September 30, US aircraft attacked *Hanoi Capital* on 67 occasions, dropping 780 demolition and blast bombs, firing 560 missiles on 175 places in the city and its suburbs, killing 150 people including 39 children and 52 women and njuring 357 others including 97 children and 180 women; many pregnant women were killed...

Haiphong Port City suffered nearly 200 bombardments, during which 2,778 demolition and blast bombs, 238 missiles were delivered at various places in the city, let alone 1,500 shells pumped by US warships. US ordnance killed 347 people, of whom 162 women, 92 children, and wounded 1,179 others, among them 497 women and 262 children. In a kindergarten, in Cau Tre quarter, a nurse and 8 infants met their death in a shelter. In only 3 raids on April 16, the US B.52 bombers killed 244 people, including 92 women and 75 children and injured 513 others, including 127 women and 97 children. 14-year-old Thanh, who lost one of his arms, now must care for his 5 younger brothers and sisters, orphan of both father and mother.

Nam Dinh Textile City was subjected to over 30 air strikes including 10 nocturnal ones. 1,075 demolition and blast bombs, 96 dart bombs canisters, large numbers of missiles and 20mm shells killed 188 civilians and wounded 306 others, mostly women textile-workers and their children. 2-month-old Bui Thi Han had her left eye blinded.

Hon Gai town was literally written off the map: out of its 3,000 houses, none left standing. The US aggressors caused about 400 civilian casualities, of whom over 300 were women, children and old folks. Mr Vu Van Khang's family lost 6 kinsfolk, to wit: his 5 children and his wife who was being with child.

Quang Binh province was the worst hit target. Throughout the last 6 months, the US aggressors flew 4,220 sorties of tactical jets to mount 1,436 raids, dumping 19,330 demolition and blast bombs, firing 1,560 rockets, 230 missiles; and over 300 sorties of B.52 strategic bombers in saturation bombings, raining about 9,000 tons of explosive on populous areas. Hundreds of thousands of women and children there were killed, injured, orphanized and maimed. Hung, Dung, Hoa and Nhat, 4 children in Bo Trach district who had lost their parents in the war of destruction under Johnson (1965—1968), were also slain.

Against these crimes, the Viet Nam Commission for the Protection of Mothers and Children and the Viet Nam Women's Union issued, on October 13,1972, an appeal to call on the mothers around the world, and the scientists, physicians, educators and specialists in the caring for the health and life of mothers and children to denounce that the US aircraft have deliberately struck at establishments serving mothers and children—infirmary, hospital, maternity-wards, creches, infant-classes, school...—while scientists in the world are devoting their energies to work for the protection of the health of mothers for ensuring children a healthy life. The appeal stressed that the US bombs not only kill and cause immediate injuries but also cause mental troubles very prejudicial to the children in the future. In areas subjected to massive US bombings, many nurslings will get epileptic fits every time they hear the terrific roar of US jets, others will awake from their sleep screaming or run away in panic.

On behalf of the Vietnamese mothers and workers in the field of protection of mothers and children, the Commission and the Viet Nam Women's Union strongly condemn the Nixon administration's deliberate attempts to massacre mothers who generate life, and children who are young shoots of a nation, stressing: "... These are extremely serious war crimes, grave violations of ethics and international law, and a challenge to human conscience.

We call on you to resolutely intensify your action to put an end to this criminal war of the US aggressive forces and to bring about a free and happy life to the Vietnamese mothers and children.

Urge the US government to put an immediate end to the bombardments and other war acts against the Vietnamese people, to stop the aggressive war, withdraw all the US troops, and respect our people's fundamental national rights."

the DRVN in brief

Picking tea at Tam Duong State Farm

— The Sea Research Institute has announced that in the Bac Bo Gulf there live 200 species of sea-surface plants, 190 species of sea-surface animals and 1,500 species of sea-bottom animals. As far as fish is concerned, 961 species have been defined; studies have also been made on concentrated fish-shoals, their yield, modes of emigration, speed of reproduction, place and time of reproduction, fishing seasons, etc. There exist on the sea-shore nearly 300 species of sea scums, many of them are used in industry, as food for men and animals, and as manures and pharmaceutical ingredients.

— The growing of *mac den*, an old precious tree found in hilly areas, is being stepped up in the provinces of the North West. The *mac den* fruit which contains 32.5 per cent of fat, 27.6 per cent of protein and 33.8 per cent of starch, is nutritive and delicious. It can cure a number of diseases and is especially used in oil-making industry. *Mac den* oil has special qualities, it can replace pork fat for cooking and also serve as a lubricant for precision instruments. A 25-year *mac den* tree can yield 20 kgs of oil in one year.

— On October 5, the Central Committee for Children and Teen-Agers met under the chairmanship of its President Nguyen Khanh Toan to discuss ways of caring for and educating children and teen-agers. A report on this kind of work was presented by the Committee's Standing Board. The meeting adopted a number of resolutions in furtherance of the tasks laid down by the Standing Committee of the National Assembly concerning education of children and teen-agers.

— A meeting was held between the Ministry of Culture and other departments concerned to discuss ways of living fitting war conditions and stepping up the "Songs drown bombs" movement. Participants in the meeting unanimously agreed on the necessity of mobilizing all forces of art and culture at the service of the grass-roots level and heavily-hit areas; so as to contribute to instilling a spirit of independence and freedom and determination to defeat US aggression while building a way of living characterized by assiduity, simplicity and healthiness.

The lion and its tamer, Viet Nam Circus Troupe

— A first batch of 105 physicians who started as sanitary agents at village level has recently graduated after four years of study. They will be heads of village infirmaries, being possessed of political qualities and experiences in rural health work.

A bomb-ravaged railway station rebuilt

Here and there through the international press

Invincible Viet Nam

THE *Nouvelle Revue Internationale* ran in its August 1972 issue an article by C. Alba and A. Massiaguine entitled "Invincible Viet Nam," describing the Viet Nam war as "America's longest colonial war."

"The war in Viet Nam is the longest ever conducted by the United States. American intervention in the affairs of Viet Nam dates back to 1945-46. Ever since there has been in the United States a succession of presidents, generals and ministers who justified the changes of strategies and gave new names to the colonial war. One thing, however, has not changed: the policy of extended aggression, the desire of imposing US will by all means, not even short of massive destruction of men, their dwellings and environments...

The US imperialist ideologists have told the world that the United States is the first to enter a new era, the technotronical era. Viet Nam and Indochina are just its testing ground. But even the US organizers of the war have recognized that the use of so powerful and so ultra-modern an arsenal has yielded only poor results."

The Viet Nam war is "the greatest war of resistance in the Vietnamese people's history."

In order to understand how the Vietnamese people are living and fighting today, one must get rid of established notions. The war has become a way of life of the people, of each family. The theatre of military operations covers the whole country. Whatever the profession of a man, his chief objective is to take greatest extent in the common cause, in the defence of the North and the liberation of the South. Soldiers, peasants, small traders, children, everyone is taking part one way or another in the war and in productive activity at the same time...

"Outwardly, life in the country, when there is no attack of the enemy, runs its normal course. But at the first alert, everyone is ready to help the combatants or to join in the fight immediately. It is like a big militant family. There lies an inexhaustible source of strength, of confidence and optimism which neither cruelty nor the prolongation of the war could deprive the Vietnamese people of."

Situation in Saigon

IN the eyes of Tiziane Terzani (The *Mirror* — FRG September 4, 1972), Sâigon in August 1972 was a city where reigned doubt and instability.

"From a distance, the capital seems to be standing aloof from the war but this impression is tanged with uncertainty and at any moment the hypocrisy of the situation is evident. Highway number One leading to plantations in the North-East and called 'Vegetable road' was often cut off for hours and so were Highway 4 which leads to Can Tho in the Mekong Delta, and Highway 20 connecting Saigon to Dalat. In fact, Saigon is at present running short of vegetables while the price of rice has gone up by 27%. Militarily speaking, in the weeks to come, the adversary might isolate the capital for long periods of time... As for occupying it, in fact, he has absolutely no need to do so."

François Nivolon writing in *Le Figaro* of September 2, 1972 commented that the "most stinging reverses" are in the economic field.

"Prospects for the immediate future are in fact more than gloomy. It is stagnation and inflation. Foreign investments are now less probable than ever. Nobody speaks any more of oil prospection."

Malcolm Browne dealt in the *International Herald Tribune* of September 16 and 17, 1972 with the consequences of Thieu's decree-law of August 4 regarding the so-called free press of Saigon. For failing to make each 20 million piastres (Saigon currency) as caution money, 15 out of the total of 41 dailies and 15 out of the 18 magazines have closed down. Among them are two foreign languages magazines, the *Viet Nam Guardian* and *Le Journal d'Extrême - Orient*, three Chinese - language papers and all Vietnamese opposition papers, excepted the *Dai Dan Toc* (*Great Nation*).

Each closure brought in its wake the lay-off of about 50 people most of whom have been unable to find another job. The opposition press has almost been reduced to silence, the author concluded.

The Watergate case

A *Reuter* dispatch from Washington on September 15, 1972 reported that the names of two former White House aides had just been added to the list of the five persons charged with illegal breaking and entering into the national headquarters of the Democratic Party in Washington's Watergate office complex with intent of burglary.

They are G. Gordon Liddy who played a leading role as counsel to the fund-raising operations of the Committee for the Re-election of the President, and E. Howard Hunt, a former CIA operative and a one time 100-dollar-a-day White House counsellor, i.e. two highly placed and highly esteemed aides of Mr Richard Milhous Nixon.

Like master, like men, a proverb says.

The reverse is equally true in this case.

Some figures

In his August 23, 1972 campaign speech, Mr Nixon affirmed: "Every time I return home I realize how fortunate we are to live in America. This is a great and a good country. We have more freedom, more opportunity and more prosperity than any people in the world."

Following are some illustrations taken from official statistics:

Unemployment: More than 5 million jobless by September 1, 1972, including 628,000 Viet Nam veterans, 963,000 coloured people and 16.9% of youths, a rise of 2 million compared with the figure of 1968, date of Nixon's inauguration.

The upward trend has been constant: 5.5% of the total in July 1972, 5.6% in August (or 100,000 more out of work). The statistics are US Department of Labour's.

In 1968, Mr Nixon promised to cut the rate down to 4%.

Poverty: More than 30 million Americans are undernourished or hungry. Hunger spreads to the whole of America like an epidemic, commented Dr Epton Low, of the US Institute of Pedology, in an interview to the *New York Times*.

Diseases: In 1965, 30,000 cases of malaria, a disease unknown in the US for decades, were recorded. It was widespread, and hit more particularly localities surrounding military bases where are stationed GI's back from Southeast Asia (*Our Generation*, magazine of Vietnamese students in Canada, No 25-26 July 1972).

Crime: Under Nixon, crime has reached record heights. Since 1968, the total of murder has risen by 25%, that of kidnappings by 29%, that of burglaries by 43%, that of rapes by 25%. Last year, 126 police officers were killed in action, as against 86 in 1969... "The statistics are staggering proof that we are indeed the most violent country in the world" (Sargent Shriver, vice-presidential candidate of the Democratic Party, in a speech to a group of Milwaukee policemen, *UPI*, September 27, 1972).

Desertions: 100,000 young Americans have sought asylum, as deserters or draft-dodgers in Canada, most of them students, servicemen and workers. Their total ran to 50,000 in Sweden and other European countries, in 1970 (*Our Generation*, op. cit.)

Parasites: The "group of leaders, parasites of American society" represents hardly 1% of the population but concentrates in its hands all political and economic power and more than 70% of the means of production (Ferdinand Lundberg, quoted by *Our Generation*, op. cit.)

The above shows what category of American enjoys "well-being and prosperity" and what majority does the "freedom" of unemployment, starvation, crime, etc.

Double Veto

AFP of September 9, 1972 gave a report on a Saigon Senate session which makes one laugh till the tears come. The pro-Thieu group indulged in sabotage activity with methods raised to the level of "state" practices: cutting off of electric power and throwing of tear grenades. This did not prevent, however, the other side consisting of 21 legislators from carrying on its work, in the light of candles, the asphyxiating fume and the greatest pandemonium imaginable and passing a resolution rejecting as "invalid," because deprived of all legal basis, all Thieu's decrees presently in force.

It was only the logical continuation of another sitting, no less stormy, 100 days ago, during which Thieu pressed for "special powers" to "deal with the situation." Since then, the situation has not at all improved, but even worsened. Hence the counter-offensive of the "opposition" Senators to divest him of the "special powers."

AP announced on the same day that the US Senate had castigated the Thieu regime's repressive moves and urged the Nixon administration to cease or decrease its support to that government described by Stevenson as "corrupt and despotic." A government which Dick, who professes respect for the Vietnamese people's right to self-determination, is sticking to, and Pat and Julia lavish praises on, and are ready to die for.

Self-flagellation

According to *UPI* of October 1, 1972 McGovern's presidential campaign committee has re-published a Nixon's statement made twenty years ago, when he was running for vice-president on Eisenhower's ticket. He scored Stevenson, the then Democratic presidential candidate, for having refused to make known his secret plan for an end to the Korean war. He challenged his adversary to communicate it to the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, failing which Stevenson should confess to the American people that he had nothing of the kind. The Democratic Senator would be believed to be trying to hustle votes and to brutally deceive American servicemen's families and friends at home about the fatalities and war in Korean, if he continued to make people believe that he had some magic formula to end the war with honour, while he did not have it.

UPI ironically remarked that during the 1968 campaign, Mr Nixon also said he had a plan to stop the Viet Nam war, but he did not reveal it.

One can add that even today, during the current campaign, Nixon is doing the very thing he charged Stevenson with two decades back. It will perfectly do to replace, in the quoted statement, Korea and Stevenson with Viet Nam and Nixon.

The Crucial Date

Under Nixon's pressure, the trial of the Watergate breaking and entering, theft of documents and bugging case has been put off until after the presidential election. Justice Siraca has even banned all statements outside court on this sensational and known to many affairs (*UPI*, October 4).

The Republican Party must be beside itself with joy. So its "dirty political activities" (McGovern) will not be uncovered before November 7, the crucial date, in order to avoid any "unforeseable consequence" susceptible of harming Mr Nixon's chances.

Unfortunately, Charybdis had hardly been shunned when one bumped into Scylla. The establishment's judiciary procrastination has produced a stir in the opinion. *Newsweek* magazine devoted a whole page of its September 18 issue to the scandal with the mugs and short life stories of the "personalities" implicated in it. They included judges, policemen, spies, security experts, State Department officials and even Nixon's aides. Such connections are not surprising on the part of someone who has been charged by world and US jurists with violations, in his aggression against VietNam, of the elementary norms of humanity, of international law and of the US Constitution itself, and who has been described by the American press as a bellicist, a butcher, a monster more hideous than Hitler. (*International Herald Tribune*, September 28).

HUONG NAM

FULL SUPPORT

OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF CHRISTIANS AND OF THE WORLD PEACE COUNCIL PRESIDIUM

The Second International Assembly of Christians in Solidarity with the Vietnamese, Laotian and Cambodian Peoples was held in Cape Rouge, Quebec, Canada, from October 6 to 9.

It was attended by 300 delegates from over 20 countries in Asia, Europe and the Americas.

The North Vietnamese delegation, led by Father Nguyen The Vinh, was given an enthusiastic welcome.

After the projection on the evening of October 6 of the latest films on US war crimes in North Viet Nam, the Assembly was officially inaugurated the following day, October 7.

In his opening address, Bernard Schereiner, executive member of the Assembly, drew an overall picture of Viet Nam today. He denounced US systematic bombings in North Viet Nam and destruction of educational institutions, health centres, places of worship, economic establishments, and administrative offices, and condemned Nguyen Van Thieu's persecution of people of all social sections including Catholics, in South Viet Nam.

He pointed out that the current offensives of the South Viet Nam Liberation Forces had dealt a heavy blow at US "Vietnamization," just as the valiant fight of the peoples of Laos and Cambodia was making the situation of the US and its agents more critical than ever. He remarked that the obstacle to the negotiations at the Paris Conference on Viet Nam is US obstinate opposition to a national concord government in South Viet Nam.

The Indochinese peoples are the representatives of all nations battling for human dignity and independence, and are proving that a small nation, provided that it remains steadfast in its resolve, can resist the criminal madness of the colonialist armed forces of the US, he said.

The speaker urged the Assembly to raise strong condemnation of US genocide against a whole nation, and to take drastic actions to arouse the people and help materialize the earnest desire of the people of both North and South Viet Nam.

In the afternoon, the North Vietnamese Christian delegation took the floor amid prolonged ovations. Its leader strongly denounced the crimes committed by the US, and extolled the courage of the North Vietnamese people, Christians and non-Christians alike, in the struggle against the war of aggression of the US, and highlighted their full support for the statement of September 11 of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam on the peaceful settlement of the Viet Nam issue.

The North Vietnamese delegate also handed to Monsignor Thomas Gumbleton, Bishop of Detroit, USA, a piece of rubble from the Phat Diem Cathedral bombed by the US on August 15, and a letter signed by 70 Catholic priests in Viet Nam.

A member of the organization committee gave the reason for the absence of the South Vietnamese delegation. He said a number of the delegates had been jailed and the others had not been issued visas. He also showed the Assembly a black cassock sent by a South Vietnamese army chaplain, on which was written "This is the presence of the South Vietnamese delegation."

The Assembly listened with great emotion to the reading of letters from detained South Vietnamese patriots, who sent their greetings to the Assembly and denounced to it the US-Thieu terror and US interference in the internal affairs of the South Vietnamese people. Many of the letters were written on calendar leaves.

On the evening of October 8, a large meeting was held in Quebec with the participation of a great number of Canadian and Vietnamese residents in the city and from Montreal.

Addressing the participants, Monsignor Thomas Gumbleton urged Christians all over the world to side with the Indochinese peoples.

The Assembly closed on October 10 with the passing of a resolution on Indochina and the adoption of a letter to Vietnamese patriots persecuted by Nguyen Van Thieu in South Viet Nam.

The resolution on Indochina said:

"The war is getting more and more ferocious. Untiringly it is bringing its long train of suffering, injustice and misery...

"Repression in South Viet Nam has become more tragic with every passing day. No delegate, member of the Christian Youth Organization or Catholic movements for peace, is allowed to take part in this Assembly. Most of them are in jail for having shown their dissent to the Saigon government's war policy, and militated for peace. Others, for the same reasons, have not been given visas. Jails are filled with pacifists and members of the resistance. Among them, many Catholics have launched an appeal for active solidarity among Christian communities. Together with them, we urge cessation of repression, release of political prisoners, an immediate end to US support for a regime which enjoys no confidence of the people, and recognition of the South Viet Nam people's right to self-determination.

"The appeal sent from prisons in the South and devastated villages and churches in the North must be heard. The Ecumenical meeting in Kansas City has reaffirmed that this war is immoral and contrary to the principles of Christ. Together with our Indochinese brothers, we demand all the churches to give up their wait-and-see and often ambiguous attitude, and express publicly and actively their support for the people who are claiming justice and independence for their countries."

In Santiago de Chile the Presidium of the World Peace Council met from October 4 to 8 a conference where the Republic of South Viet Nam was represented by a delegation under Mr Nguyen Van Than.

The 5-day gathering ended with the approval of an appeal and a resolution on Indochina, and statements in support of the people of Puerto Rico, Panama and other Latin American countries and a resolution on the Mideast.

After the unanimous passing of the documents on Indochina, Romesh Chandra, WPC Secretary General, invited the North and South Vietnamese delegates to join the presidium members, amidst prolonged standing ovations and the presentation of bouquets by Chilean children.

Angela Davis, the staunch Afro-American champion of peace and freedom and fearless opponent of Nixon's racial discrimination and war, made a speech, in which she praised the Vietnamese struggle against the US aggression, and stressed that the Vietnamese people's victory would mean a victory for freedom and peace and would further strengthen solidarity among progressive forces in the world. She said once back in the States she would work harder for an end to the US imperialists' war in Viet Nam and Indochina as a whole and join the world peoples in exposing Nixon as a liar and in publicizing that the soundest peace proposal is the 7 points of the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government.

Following is the gist of the appeal on Indochina adopted at the conference:

Part of the world today is threatened with unprecedented extermination.

The most savage means of destruction and the most sophisticated weapons, including electronic and chemical weapons, are being used against the Vietnamese, Lao and Cambodian peoples, whose only "crime" is to desire to live in independence in their own countries.

Never has the word "genocide" had so concrete a meaning, although Nixon has ceaselessly tried to mislead the public, especially the American public.

The Nixon administration says that because it wants peace it is withdrawing US ground forces. Yet, that administration is intensifying, at an increasing tempo, the bombardments by the Air Force and Navy, thus ravaging towns and villages and causing thousands of civilian casualties.

To materialize its neo-colonialist ambitions, the Nixon administration is seeking to maintain client regimes in Indochina while refusing to negotiate seriously at the Paris Conference on Viet Nam on the practical basis provided by the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government for a peaceful solution.

The Presidium of the World Peace Council appeals to the governments and peoples of all countries in the world, particularly the American people, to condemn US atrocities in Viet Nam, and

— Act resolutely for an immediate end to the extermination bombing of the most populous cities of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam,

— Step up political actions and increase material aid to the just cause of the valiant Vietnamese, Lao and Cambodian combatants, who are fighting for independence.

We demand peace, freedom and honour for the nations that have for many years set to us the best example of bravery and industriousness.

The war can be stopped by the widest international actions of all nations.

All honest people should join in them.

SOUTH VIET NAM — CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION